

Your Participation Can Make a Difference

Attend a CPUC Public Participation Hearing (PPH) or workshop in your community and tell us your concerns about utilities and issues over which the CPUC has jurisdiction. If you cannot attend a PPH, you can submit written comments through e-mail or postal mail to the Public Advisor's Office. See the contact information on the back of this brochure.

Attending and participating in PPHs or workshops provides an opportunity to learn about the topic and hear the positions of others. Public comment may raise issues and concerns that influence how a project or issue is analyzed.

You can learn about the scheduling of PPHs and workshops by watching for public notices, monitoring the CPUC website and Daily Calendar, or signing up for free electronic notification from the automated Subscription Service and Service Lists found on the CPUC website, www.cpuc.ca.gov.



Tips about Attending a PPH

Most CPUC proceedings schedule PPHs to specifically involve the public and solicit the views of those who may be affected by CPUC decisions. If you plan to attend a PPH, please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, we recommend you arrive at least 15 minutes early to sign up to speak.
- Speakers need to be present to sign up to speak. You cannot sign up others or yield your time to someone else.
- If you have written your speech, please bring a copy for the judge and another for the court reporter.
- You do not have to speak, you may just listen.
- Usually, the judge will not answer questions but will refer you to a utility representative or CPUC staff.
- For safety purposes, signs of any size that are mounted on sticks are not allowed in any room where a hearing or workshop is taking place; neither are signs larger than 8 1/2 by 11 inches, whether mounted or not.



Where are PPHs and workshops noticed by the CPUC?

PPHs and workshops are noticed in the CPUC's Daily Calendar, which is available at www.cpuc.ca.gov.



Public Participation Information Series # 3

Participating at CPUC Public Participation Hearings and Workshops

This brochure is part of the CPUC Public Advisor's Office Public Participation Information Series. The brochures in the series are:

- # 1 Understanding a CPUC Proceeding
- # 2 Participating at a CPUC Voting Meeting
- # 3 Participating at CPUC Public Participation Hearings and Workshops
- # 4 How to Become a Party in a CPUC Proceeding
- # 5 CPUC Intervenor Compensation Program
- # 6 Ex Parte Communications at the CPUC

Contact Information for the Public Advisor's Office

E-mail: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
Toll-free: 866-849-8390 or 415-703-2074
TTY: 866-836-7825

Address:
CPUC Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

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www.cpuc.ca.gov



Public Participation Hearings

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) often holds Public Participation Hearings (PPHs) to give the public a chance to learn about, or express their opinions on, issues before the CPUC. For example, when a utility asks to increase rates or to construct transmission lines, PPHs may be held in the area that will be impacted by the request.

A judge presides over the PPH, and occasionally, a CPUC Commissioner may attend. At the beginning of the PPH, the judge will provide an overview of the CPUC hearing process. The judge may ask the applicant (the utility in most cases) or CPUC staff to describe what is being proposed to the audience.

Participating at Public Participation Hearings and Workshops

PPHs and workshops are free and open to the public. No advance reservations are necessary to attend, but you must sign up if you wish to speak. Public comment is encouraged and is considered by the Commissioners and judges in their decisions. Although the CPUC considers PPH's as part of the formal process, it is important to understand that comments, and even material that you submit, do not have the same weight in decision-making as testimony from a formal "party."

PPH and workshop schedules are posted in the CPUC Daily Calendar, which can be accessed from the main website: www.cpuc.ca.gov.

Speaking at a PPH

- Elected officials attending a PPH are usually allowed to speak first.
- If a large number of people sign up to speak, the judge may set a time limit in order to allow everyone a chance to speak.
- There will be a CPUC court reporter present to record your comments for the record.
- Attendees are expected to be respectful of others' opinions and behave as one would in a traditional courtroom.

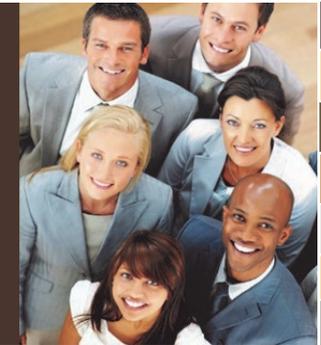
What to Expect at a Workshop

- The CPUC schedules public hearings and workshops for parties, special interest groups, and industry experts to discuss or plan specific items related to a proceeding or CPUC program.
- Occasionally, there is a portion of time set aside for anyone from the public to speak or ask questions.
- You may contact the Public Advisor's Office if you have questions about attending the meetings and workshops.



California
Public Utilities
Commission

Public Advisor's Office
www.cpuc.ca.gov/pao



Public Hearings are Open to Everyone

The CPUC can provide language interpreters and/or American Sign Language interpreters at a CPUC event. Please send a request to the Public Advisor's Office at least five business days before the event. The CPUC will provide these services for free for whomever needs them.

CPUC's Public Advisor's Office Facilitates PPHs

Public Advisor's Staff:

- Signs up people who wish to speak.
- Answers questions about the CPUC and decision-making processes.
- Provides information on proceedings, such as how to follow the scheduling, how to receive documents related to a proceeding, how to make comments, and how to become a formal party to a proceeding.
- Explains how and when to provide written comments.
- Answers other CPUC-related questions.